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## FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

#### *Smallpox in Nanaimo and Gabriola Island.*

VICTORIA, November 21, 1900.

SIR: There are 13 cases of varioloid in Nanaimo; it is confined to 3 families; all are quarantined. Boats and trains leaving Nanaimo are inspected and all passengers vaccinated. General vaccination of Nanaimo and surrounding districts has been ordered.

There is 1 case of varioloid on Gabriola Island, which is isolated, and 49 contacts are quarantined.

Respectfully,

*Secretary Provincial Board of Health.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

### CHINA.

#### *Facilities for disinfecting at Hongkong.*

HONGKONG, CHINA, October 31, 1900.

SIR: In further explanation of my cablegram of October 24, 1900, I have the honor to report the conditions on my arrival at this station. The apparatus for disinfection of baggage consists of 1 steam chamber 16 feet and 4 inches long, 4 feet and 3 inches wide, and 5 feet and 3 inches high, inside measurement, owned by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and was intended for passengers going to the Hawaiian Islands. During 1899, the plant was used for the treatment of San Francisco's steerage passengers and the crews of vessels going to that port.

Through an arrangement with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, all firms having vessels leaving for any American port send their crews and passengers to this plant for treatment.

The chamber, while in good working order, has no formalin generator and is about one-twentieth the capacity of those in use at Angel Island, which makes the work slow and, at times, inadequate. A great many articles that would be injured by steam are treated with bichloride solution. In Chinese baggage there yet remain many articles that can not be treated with the present method employed. The facilities for giving baths are ample.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company was at once advised that an air-tight room for the use of sulphur would greatly improve and hasten the work and as a result a room 20 by 10 by 8 feet is almost completed for the treatment of articles injured by steam or solutions. A number of other firms, because of the frequent delays and expense attached to the present arrangement, expressed a willingness to equip an independent plant.

They were advised that a floating station was better adapted to the work at this port, and a barge is being fitted up with steam cham-